



HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Updated: February, 2003

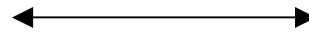


FIRST FORK TRAIL #727

Length: 3.4 miles (5.4 km.)

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter

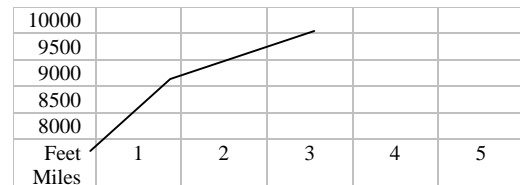


Use: Light

Difficulty: More difficult

USGS Map (s): Rules Hill,
Durango East, and Hermosa.

Starting Elevation: 7,800'
Lower trailhead



Ending Elevation: 9,500'

Junction with
Missionary
Ridge Trail

**Recommended
Season:**

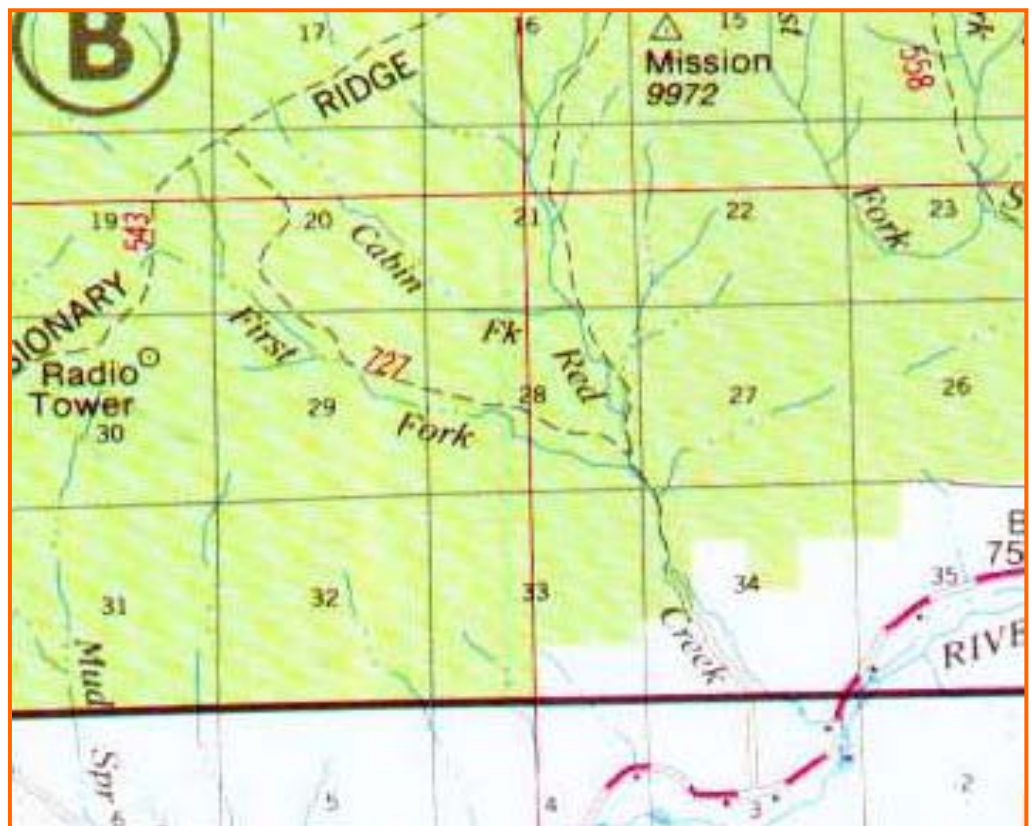
Spring/Summer/Fall

Access #1: Drive about 8 miles east of Durango on Florida Road. Turn north at Colvig Silver Camp and go past the camp, over the cattle guard, and continue to follow the road for roughly 1 mile. Strong 2WD. with good clearance may be needed for the last mile of the road. Limited parking is available.

Access #2: Via
Missionary Ridge Trail.

Attractions &

Considerations : This trail is excellent during late spring through mid-fall, due to its relatively low elevation and southeast-facing slopes. The trail winds through timber on the lower section, but opens up farther along the trail. The trail follows a stream, which is crossed several times. Water availability is not a problem, but all water should be purified, due to problems with Giardia. This trail is excellent for viewing the fall colors of the Gambel oak and aspen trees. It is not uncommon to see large game such as elk and mule deer in the First Fork/Missionary Ridge Trail areas.



Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map
Forest Service maps and other publications are available at the Public Lands Center, in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874.
www.sjma.org